

YARMOUTH, N. S., MAY 26, 1895.

If the statement of Capt. Crosby is correct, i.e. that the mackerel between Yarmouth Bar and Maitland are all taken in the traps from the north, it would indicate unquestionably that the schools striking this coast do not split, a part going up toward Bay Fundy and a part up east. In coming up from the south a part of the schools strike in off the west end of Nova Scotia, and their great body bends to the south until they round Cape Sable, when they move to the east. A few of the first or large run do, however, manage to get into the mouth of the Bay Fundy as evidenced by their catching some at Digby.

Notes should show whether these spring mackerel occur in the Gulf of Maine. That is whether a part of the body moving from the south go in there as well as others striking in at Nova Scotia.

There is no trouble in accounting for the mackerel in St. Mary's Bay in the fall, as the Gulf of Maine is pretty well covered with them at that season.

Dr. Wakeham says the salmon now taken in the traps here are probably the first fresh salmon that find their way to United States markets from the east coast, although he does not know whether they take any off the Penobscot etc. He says they bring a high price which greatly falls off when they begin to take them in the rivers, the catch being thereby greatly increased. The market then becomes glutted often.

He thinks the salmon taken in the traps here belong to the Nova Scotia Rivers. There are many rivers which salmon ascend along this outer coast.

The catch of salmon in these traps to so large an extent must seriously affect the supply in the rivers. Wakeham says that the cod nets in the Gulf of St. Lawrence in some places take so many salmon that they greatly disturb the regular salmon netting and complaints have been made. Sometimes the salmon taken in these nets are of more value than the cod.

Enormous quantities of lobsters are shipped to Boston from this region, alive in boxes with ice, About 140 lbs. of lobsters to a box, the gross weight of box with ice being about 220 lbs. Saw a very large number of the empty boxes being discharged by the steamer Yarmouth.

Wakeham says the small lobsters seized in Boston come from this region. The Massachusetts limit is 10 1/2, the Canadian 9 1/2, but the lobsters complained of were many of them smaller than the latter. Of course this is in violation of Canadian law, but they cannot afford to have an inspector at all these points, although he thinks they might have some, in such places as this to inspect shipments.

When the trouble occurred in Boston Canada sent a man there to find out the details, and who had been the shippers.

Mackerel and lobsters (possibly some others) are now shipped from Yarmouth by the fishermen direct to Boston agents, the former paying freight and commission. They do not ship through houses here.

The mackerel are packed in bbls. with ice at each fishery, and are brought here by team from up shore. From down shore (east) they are brought over in steamer, and from Crosby's may be brought in boat.

There is no packing of mackerel in Yarmouth, although they may repack these for some cause.

An old fisherman now fishing for cod at Yarmouth.

Herring will not come in plenty where lobster fishing is carried on. There is too much rubbish, foul bait, etc., which seems to keep them away. They are abundant at mouth of Yarmouth Bay, after lobster fishery, but never come up into the bay.

Lobster pots also interfere with cod fishing and they have to keep outside of them. In this region will set for lobsters as deep as 15 fathoms, and sometimes even to 30 fathoms. Sees no difference in the abundance of lobsters. There are more this year than last.

J. N. Gardner, Yarmouth, May 26, 1895.

Might count 135 lbs. of mackerel to a bbl. in figuring up the custom house records. The weight is not constant, and is never figured up here. The Custom House, in order to get their record of pounds, must have estimated them by the number of bbls. The shippers of mackerel here recognize only the bbl. So many are put in a bbl. varying at different seasons, or in accordance with size of fish. There is a duty now of $\frac{1}{2}$ cent a lb. on arrival at Boston, and there the weight is determined to the satisfaction of the Custom House, by opening some of the bbls., weighing a few of the fish, etc. Therefore, no special attention is paid to the weight here.

For the first run of fish here this season you could figure